

Interactive comment on “Carbon isotope discrimination during litter decomposition can be explained by selective use of substrate with differing $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ ” by J. Ngao and M. F. Cotrufo

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Dear referee,

Please find in the attached pdf file (supplement) our responses to the referee’s comment. We replied to each comment, which are identified by a number for better clarity. Two specific points:

(1) Both referees actually pointed out the observed isotopic discrimination of alpha-cellulose as an important but still unclear issue of our manuscript. We gave evidences

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that our extraction method did not discriminate. And an entire paragraph has been prepared for being included in the discussion part.

(2) We also proposed a new manuscript title following the referee #2's comment ("Temporal changes in stable carbon isotope discrimination during leaf litter respiration: Effects of preferential use of different carbon substrates and kinetic fractionation")

(3) beside the responses we also proposed several changes and adds to the submitted manuscript, this work being already done.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<http://www.biogeosciences-discuss.net/8/C185/2011/bgd-8-C185-2011-supplement.pdf>

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 8, 51, 2011.

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